

Digital Storytelling Project

Draft of Narration due **02/07 before class**

Recording of Narration due **02/14 before class**

Storyboard due **02/14 before class**

Completed project due **02/21 end of day**

What is a digital story?

Digital storytelling is a multimodal form of storytelling that combines narration (the words of the story), images (can be still pictures and/or video clips), and sound effects and/or music.

Your digital stories

This course examines our notions of truth and falsehood, reality and imagination, objectivity and subjectivity, documentary and artistic expression—all through the lens of photography. For your digital story, you will first pick a photograph. It can be a selfie, a photograph from a vacation, a photograph with friends, of a pet, a landscape—any photograph from your personal experience (just don't go online and pick a random photo, it will make this assignment very difficult to complete).

Your digital story will explore the narrative that this photograph might tell to strangers who look at it, as well as the truths behind the photograph. In other words, how does the “fiction” of the photograph differ from the truth of reality? For example: How does the photo make something look effortless that was in reality very difficult? Why does the photo crop something out of view that changes its meaning? Why does the photo highlight an emotion that wasn't as prevalent in reality? How/why does the photo only tell part of the whole story?

Narration

The first draft of your narration is due before class on **Thursday, February 7th** to the **Papers**. The narration should be **approximately 500 words**. This is a relatively short writing assignment, so make every word count. We will be peer-reviewing narrations in class on the due date of the drafts. Be creative with your narrations, be descriptive, let your voice shine through!

Once your narration is finalized, you will create a voice recording of yourself reading it. Don't read too fast or too slow. Record in a quiet space! I recommend recording it a couple of times so you can pick the version you like best. If it is helpful for you, note places where you'd like to pause during the reading in the narration itself.

Your narration should be recorded before you come to class on 02/14.

Storyboard

The storyboard is an important step to turning your written narration into a digital story. The storyboard maps the words of the narrative with potential visuals, transitions and sound effects. You must complete the storyboard before beginning to assemble your digital story in a video editing program. **Bring your storyboard to class 02/14.** I also recommend gathering some images on a flash drive before class on 02/14 for your digital story.

When gathering images and sound for your project, make sure that any image/sound you use that does not belong to you has a creative commons license and that you credit the images appropriately.

Resources for finding creative commons images and sounds:

- <https://search.creativecommons.org/>
- <https://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>
- <https://mediacommons.psu.edu/free-media-library/>

Final Project

Once your narration is recorded and your storyboard is completed, you can begin using video editing software to create your digital story. The software you use is up to you, but [WeVideo](#) and Microsoft Photos are free to use. We will be spending class on February 14th workshopping your digital stories. Bring headphones to class!

You can see examples of digital stories [here](#).

The final video should be **no longer than 5 minutes** in length and will likely be somewhere between 2 and 4 minutes long.

The final project should be **uploaded to your Academic Commons website** by the **end of the day on Thursday February 21st.**